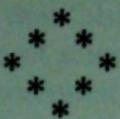


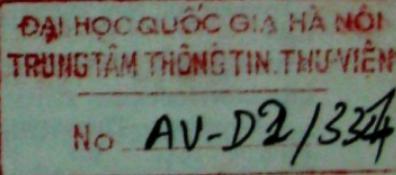
NG  
167

# The Presence of the Word

Some Prolegomena for Cultural and Religious History



by Walter J. Ong, S.J.



University of Minnesota Press  
Minneapolis Oxford

# Contents

<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>1. THE WORD AND THE SENSORIUM</b>	<b>1</b>
The Shifting Sensorium * Religion and the Sensorium * The Sensorium and the Word of God	
<b>2. TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE WORD</b>	<b>17</b>
The Stages of the Word * First Stage: The Unrecorded Word—Oral Culture * Second Stage: The Denatured Word—Alpha- bet and Print * Complications and Over- lappings * Sound-Sight Split in the Learned Languages * Commonplaces as Oral Residue * Third Stage: Electronics and the Sensorium Today * Communica- tions Media and the Freudian Psychosexual Sequences	
<b>3. WORD AS SOUND</b>	<b>111</b>
Auditory Synthesis: Word as Event * The Affinity of Sound and Thought * Sound and the Sacral: Acoustic Space * Sound, Sight, and “Reality”	
<b>4. THE WORD AS HISTORY: SACRED AND PROFANE</b>	<b>176</b>
The Word and the Interiorizing of History * Word of God in Hebrew and Christian Tradition	

<b>5. THE WORD AND THE QUEST FOR PEACE</b>	<b>192</b>
Polemic and the Word * The Polemic Texture of Verbomotor Culture * Fliting, Rhetoric, Dialectic, and Objectivity * Ob- jectivity and Subjectivity * Authority and Oral-Aural Structures * The End of Oral- ly Institutionalized Hostilities * Com- merce, Vernaculars, and Education for Wom- en * The Word in a State of Peace * Crises of the Word and the Split in Western Christianity	
<b>6. MAN'S WORD AND GOD'S PRESENCE</b>	<b>287</b>
God's "Silence" and the Media * Human Presence Today * The Presence of Man and the Openness of the Word * Presence in Things * Presence of Man and Pres- ence of God * Reflectiveness of the Word * The Word Bespeaks Hope * God's Word Today	
<b>READINGS</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>INDEX</b>	<b>345</b>